

REMARKS

Paragraphs [0021] and [0035] of the present application as published have been amended to correct grammatical errors.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Claims 1-15 are subject to a restriction requirement by the Examiner. Claims 1-15 have been canceled. New claim 16-30 have been added. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Reply to the Restriction of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 121

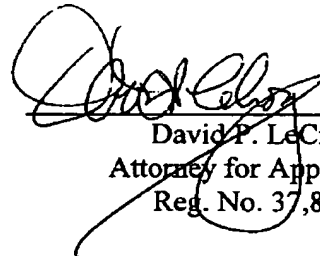
The Examiner has restricted Claims 1-15 to one of the following inventions –

- I. Claims 1-12, drawn to a method for maintaining hydration of an aqueous polymer composition, classified in class 524, subclass 186+.
- II. Claim 13-15, drawn to a method of maintaining hydration of a substrate, classified in class 427, subclass various.

Claims 1-15 have been canceled. New claims 16-30 are presented. New claim 17, which includes the additional step of applying the aqueous polymer composition to a substrate to maintain hydration of the substrate, depends directly from new independent method claim 16. Because of their dependency, claims 16 and 17 are not distinct from each other, and prosecution should proceed in the instant application without restriction.

Respectfully submitted,

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